CVILLE PLANS TOGETHER

Draft Comprehensive Plan Updates
November 2020

Introduction

The draft Guiding Principles and Vision Statements in this document are the first step in a larger process of updating the Comprehensive Plan. We first need to define "big picture" priorities and we can then create goals, and actions to achieve the desired outcomes. **The comment period for these materials is open through December 2, 2020.** You can view these and more information at cvilleplanstogether.com/comp-plan-station. Learn more about the Comprehensive Plan in general at cvilleplanstogether.com/citywide-comprehensive-plan.

Guiding Principles

The Guiding Principles are an update of the Community Values from the 2013 version of the Comprehensive Plan. These statements set the stage for the rest of the plan. In the 2013 Plan, the Community Values came directly from City Council strategic planning efforts. These updated draft Guiding Principles are specific to the Comprehensive Plan and separate from, but complementary to, the City Council Community Values. With these, the Plan can demonstrate how strategies from different chapters will work together to address important, cross-cutting priorities. These draft Principles were informed by what we heard during the first round of public engagement (May-June 2020) as well as on input from the Cville Plans Together Steering Committee and the Planning Commission.

Equity & Opportunity: *All people should be able to thrive in Charlottesville.*

All residents, regardless of race, age, income, neighborhood, country of origin, religious affiliation, gender expression, sexual orientation, and other personal characteristics **should have equitable and expanded access** to safe and affordable **housing**, good **jobs** and **wealth building** opportunities, **parks and natural resources**, high-quality **education and training**, and other infrastructure, information, and services that support a **high quality of life**. The City will support development and initiatives that take into consideration the **full range of needs** of Charlottesville's diverse community.

Local & Regional Collaboration:
From the neighborhood to the region, open conversations and partnerships will make the city stronger.

The City should **actively and meaningfully seek community input** in strategizing and implementing all planning efforts and **should utilize local and regional partnerships**, including those with **UVA** and **Albemarle County**, to achieve stronger, more effective outcomes.

Environmental Stewardship & Sustainability:
The Charlottesville community should demonstrate environmental and climate leadership.

The City should continue to **reduce its environmental impact** and improve air and water quality as part of all efforts related to the built and natural environments. Charlottesville's **residents, institutions, and businesses should** also be empowered to **reduce their environmental footprint** and benefit from **energy efficiency efforts** and high-quality **natural resources**.

Connections & Access:
The City should consider land use and transportation in complementary ways, creating better and safer mobility options for all.

Residents and visitors should be able to **travel safely, efficiently, and affordably** throughout the city and region, with **easy access** to services, employment opportunities, and amenities.

Community Culture & Unity:
Charlottesville's rich and diverse culture should be celebrated, and the entire community should create an environment in which all of the city's residents feel welcomed, valued, and respected.

The **culture and identity** of the city should be enhanced and expanded to reflect the **full diversity** of people and communities.

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Vision Statements

The Vision Statements articulate a future vision or outcome for each topic-specific chapter of the Comprehensive Plan. These form the basis for both short- and long-term goals and actions to be refined in these chapters as a next step in the Cville Plans Together process. These statements may directly or indirectly connect back to the Guiding Principles.

Land Use, Urban Form, & Historic Preservation

The starting point for this chapter Vision Statement was the 2013 Land Use chapter and the 2018 draft of the Historic Preservation & Urban Design chapter. This revision proposes combining the Land Use chapter with the Historic Preservation & Urban Design chapter, to better reflect the interconnectivity between those topics in Charlottesville.

- Through the City's land use and urban design plans, policies, and regulations, including zoning, Charlottesville will **strive to eliminate racial and economic inequities and segregation**, increase the **supply and affordability of housing**, enhance neighborhood **livability**, improve **environmental quality**, support an **efficient transportation network**, promote **infill development**, and increase **commercial vitality**.
- Charlottesville will be a "living" community with amenities and spaces that are **welcoming**, **human-scaled**, **sustainable**, **well-utilized**, **equitable**, and **beautiful**.
- Charlottesville's **urban design and historic preservation efforts will contribute in both overlapping and distinct ways** to the character and quality of neighborhoods, and to the aesthetic value of the entire community.
- The **diversity of people and places in the city will be celebrated and supported** and the unique and diverse sense of place and history of each neighborhood will be recognized and enhanced. Communities will not be solely dictated by the past, and will look for ways to **broaden the range of recognized histories and narratives**.

Housing

The starting point for this chapter Vision Statement was the 2018 draft of the Housing chapter. This Comprehensive Plan Vision Statement is influenced by the draft Affordable Housing Plan vision and also includes additional aspects of housing.

- The City of Charlottesville will recognize the importance of housing for all residents by implementing strategies to achieve a **housing market that is affordable, healthy, high quality, and, above all, equitable**.
- The City will identify and address injustice in the **provision of housing options for all**, regardless of personal or familial characteristics or circumstances.
- Housing policies and plans will celebrate and enhance the **variety of available housing types and sizes**, for both **rental and ownership** opportunities.
- The Charlottesville community will **make clear steps toward addressing affordability, homelessness, and displacement** of people from their neighborhoods, with an end result of **culturally and demographically diverse and thriving neighborhoods**.

Environment, Health, & Energy

The starting point for this chapter Vision Statement was the 2018 draft of the Urban Environmental Sustainability chapter. The proposed chapter title change aims to clarify the breadth of topics covered in the chapter.

- Charlottesville will be an **environmental leader**, with healthy air, water, and land, as well as ample and accessible open space and natural areas, and a preserved and enhanced tree canopy.
- The City will work to ensure **food security and access to healthy foods** for all residents by supporting local urban agriculture and creating a **more just food system**.
- The Charlottesville community will make **steady progress toward meeting the goal of citywide carbon neutrality by 2050**. The city's land use patterns will be well-integrated with its transportation network and will equitably balance land use, housing, and transportation goals with environmental and climate goals.
- Charlottesville's built environment will utilize **green infrastructure** and encourage **healthy and low-carbon lifestyles** by supporting walking, bicycling, and transit use, and access to outdoor public spaces and natural areas.
- The City will work to both **mitigate and prepare for the potential impacts of climate change** by increasing reliable access to and use of clean energy sources, updating its building standards, and improving environmental quality for all residents.

Transportation

The starting point for this chapter Vision Statement was the 2018 draft of the Transportation chapter.

- Charlottesville will enhance the **reliability, safety, efficiency, and equitability** of the transportation system, and continue to ensure **integration with the regional transportation network**.
- The City will efficiently manage and serve vehicular travel with existing facilities, and look to **expand transportation options** for walking, bicycling, and transit. A **continuous and connected network** of sidewalks, bicycle facilities, and trails, as well as frequent, affordable, and expanded **transit coverage**, will support increased walking, bicycling, and public transit use, **particularly in lower-wealth areas** and **areas currently lacking access**. Adoption of **new transportation technologies** will further expand travel options throughout the city.
- The transportation network will be **well-integrated with land use** to support access to jobs, services, and destinations while reducing reliance on the automobile and single occupancy vehicle travel. As this is achieved, **provision of parking will be coordinated with urban form goals**, while mitigating potential impacts to neighborhoods and respecting the needs of residents, businesses, employees, visitors, and others.

Economic Prosperity & Opportunity

The starting point for this chapter Vision Statement was the 2018 draft of the Economic Sustainability chapter. The proposed chapter title change aims to center this chapter on supporting economic development that makes the city stronger and creates opportunities for all residents.

- Charlottesville's economy will be **vibrant and resilient**, with a **diversified and broadened economic base**.
- The City of Charlottesville will be **supportive of businesses**, including **small and minority-owned businesses** as well as new business ventures, and will actively participate in **regional economic development initiatives**.
- The City will **connect the community with meaningful opportunities for wealth creation**. The building of career ladders of opportunity and economic mobility will be bolstered by ensuring that local economic growth is **paired with the development of employment, training, and other opportunities for residents**.

Community Facilities & Services

The starting point for this chapter Vision Statement was the 2018 draft of the Community Facilities chapter. The proposed addition of "services" to the chapter title aims to clarify that access to services related to or within facilities is an additional important goal for the future.

- The City of Charlottesville will **ensure that all residents have access** to outstanding schools, recreational facilities and trails, civic facilities and public buildings, public services, and the infrastructure needed to support a full range of educational and economic opportunities.
- Effective and efficient utilities and public services will **support the health and welfare of residents and the quality of the environment** in both the city and region.
- The City will set a **national standard for emergency response and community-oriented public safety**, with clear strategies aimed at **building trust and relationships** with all neighborhoods.

Community Engagement & Collaboration

This chapter is new to the Comprehensive Plan.

- Recognizing that past engagement efforts did not always effectively seek input from the full community, the City will use new and evolving strategies to directly seek input from all community members, **particularly those who are not often heard from** and those who are **most impacted** by potential decisions.
- The City will emphasize and demonstrate the importance of community involvement by facilitating **transparent, accessible, and respectful** input opportunities, and by **effectively communicating** the ways in which **community input will be considered** in and will inform decision-making.
- The City will **widely and proactively** share information about opportunities and events, **welcoming all residents** into planning and decision-making processes while ensuring that they **understand the process** and how the outcome could potentially impact their lives.
- The City will utilize a variety of best practices in community engagement and seek out **information-sharing partnerships** with local organizations.
- City-appointed boards, commissions, and committees will be both **representative of and sensitive to Charlottesville's diversity** and range of perspectives and will provide and encourage **opportunities for informed participation** by interested community members.

The comment period for these materials is open through Dec. 2, 2020. Visit the website for more information about how to submit your input, as well as information about upcoming events. CvillePlansTogether.com/virtual-meeting